

OPENING REMARKS--NDIA SO/LIC SYMPOSIUM, 1998

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Good morning and welcome to the 9th Annual SO/LIC Symposium sponsored by the National Defense Industrial Association--recently formed by the merger of ADPA and NSIA--a union that has already proven a benefit to the SO/LIC community

I thank you for your attendance at this Symposium, which indicates the great support and interest that is extended to the SO/LIC component for our national strategy and associated national security programs. Represented among everyone here are many from industry who are teamed with our SO/LIC forces in providing the superior capability which our nation now possesses. From industry also comes the pledge to continue to help field the greatest SOF in the world. This Symposium is a vehicle by which all involved in SO/LIC can meet, exchange information and address the the issues of the SO/LIC battlefield and of our SOF as they look to the challenges of the future.

The SO/LIC Division is privileged to organize and host this Symposium--about which I would like to make a few comments.

First.....This Symposium is designed to consider how to "prepare now for an uncertain future", which is one of the principal objectives of our current national strategy--as cited in the President's strategy, the National Military Strategy and the many subsequent strategy-related documents, such as the Defense Guidance, QDR and the recently released report from the National Defense Panel. Despite the myriad of strategy and policy statements, national military strategy remains in transition. Symposia like this one and interested participants like each of you can have an influence. Collectively we are a recognized voice and our discussions over the next two days will reach strategy and policy decision makers.

Second.....NDIA through its SO/LIC Division and this Symposium has the honor to acknowledge and recognize the service of many of our SO/LIC warriors for their outstanding personal contributions. Tonight at our Banquet, awards will be made to over a dozen personnel from all the services for special SO/LIC achievement. Also will we honor three notable leaders of SO/LIC for a lifetime of service by the award of our R Lynn Rylander Award. Recipients this year are The Honorable John O Marsh, Jr and posthumously, Rear Admiral Irve C (Chuck) Le Moyne and Colonel George T Talbot. Please attend the banquet and help us honor all these great SO/LIC leaders.

Third.....As you may know the work of the SO/LIC Division is carried on by a group of volunteers, like myself and the members of the Executive Board, who are listed in the Symposium program. I invite you to assist us in our programs supporting SOF and SO/LIC. The Executive Board meets monthly to stay informed on SO/LIC matters and

to plan the activities of the Division. Our objective is to continue to be a facilitator of coordination between government, industry, media and academia on matters relating to SO/LIC. With the indorsement of NDIA we are in the process of relocating the headquarters of the North Carolina Chapter of NDIA from the Raleigh area to Fayetteville where it can become closer to SOF and better represent our mutual interests. Perhaps in the near future we can have this Symposium in Fayetteville--take it to the "field". We continue to look for new ways to better represent both the government and industry on behalf of SOF. The SO/LIC Division publishes a newsletter as a forum for continuing discussion on SO/LIC matters. Everyone attending this Symposium will be on our mailing list. Also the NDIA National Defense magazine regularly highlights articles of SO/LIC significance, as in this month's issue. Through the many venues of NDIA, the SO/LIC Division has become the voice of the community--a community which we hope to continually broaden. Your help is invited--with more hands and heads we can do more. If you wouldlike to become more active in our programs please contact me here at the Symposium or leave a message for me at NDIA.

William C Moore